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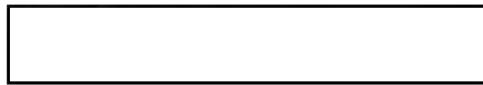
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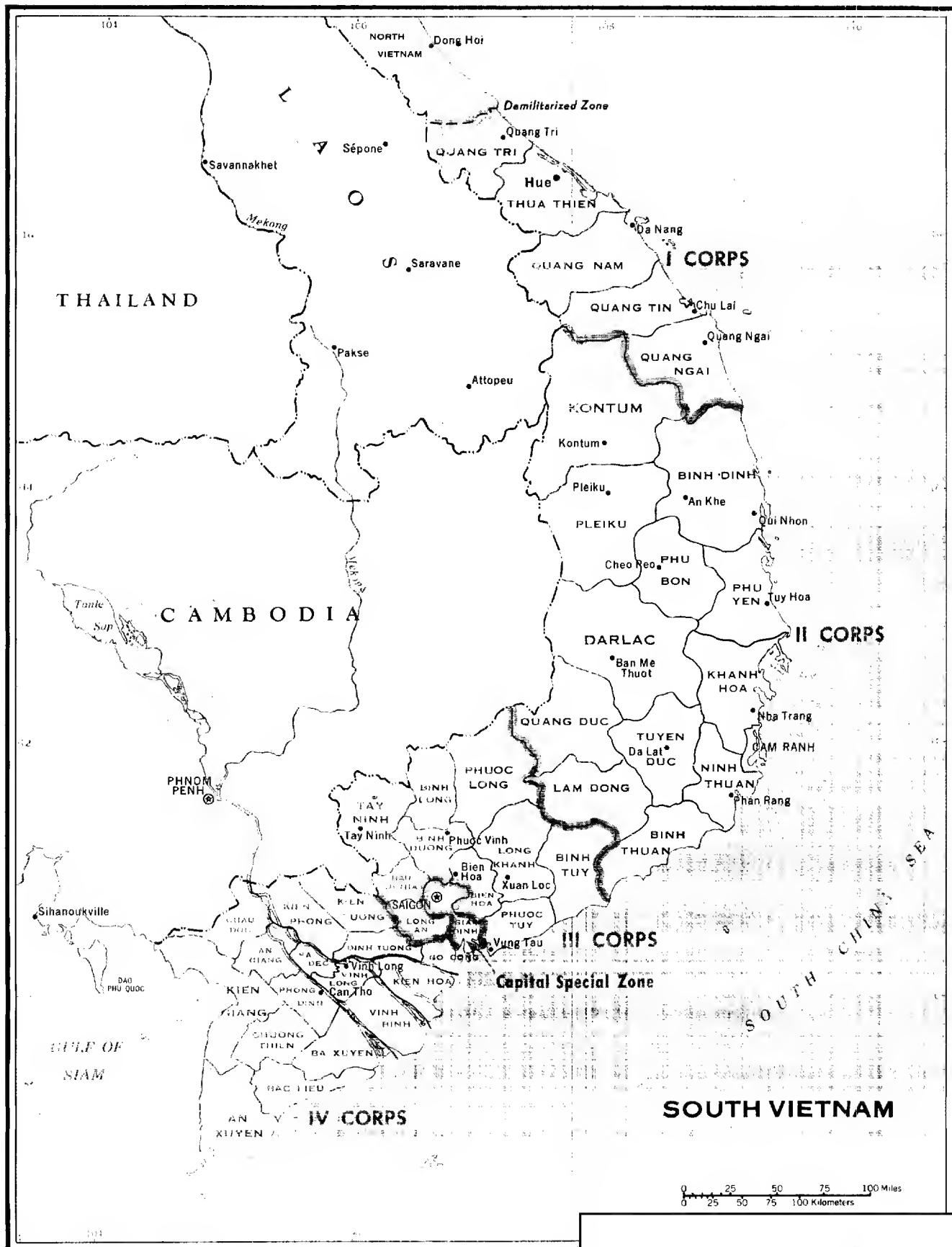
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***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)**

Military Developments in South Vietnam: Although no major action occurred in the northern provinces of South Vietnam on 14-15 April, American reconnaissance patrols engaged in widely scattered small-unit skirmishes in the area south of the DMZ.

Additional evidence of the Viet Cong's intent to soften up the population of the northern area both for major military actions and for countermeasures against the US/GVN pacification program was contained in a report of local Viet Cong meetings held in Thua Thien Province in late March.

Viet Cong cadre are telling the people that the Communists plan to enlarge their area of control, "besiege Hue," and "take Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces at any cost."

The people were reportedly told of specific plans to counter pacification efforts through "sabotage" of model pacification hamlets, and the Communists professed to be establishing a special village for families who desert government areas. They urged the people attending the meeting to steal copies of the guidelines for Revolutionary Development teams to help the Viet Cong in preparing leaflets designed to misrepresent the pacification effort to the people.

Communist prisoners have also alluded to a major "summer campaign" targeted in part against the pacification program in these two provinces. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The re-election of Phan Khac Suu by the Constituent Assembly as its chairman during its interim tenure as a limited legislative body may enhance Suu's stature as a candidate for South Vietnam's future presidency. There had been some speculation that Suu, already one of the strongest civilian contenders, might step aside in view of the assembly's key role in drafting the electoral laws.

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Britain - South Arabia: London is awaiting the results of Lord Shackleton's visit to Aden and of the United Nations mission's visit to London before deciding what to do next about South Arabia.

The British would like to salvage some role for the UN despite the failure of the mission's visit to Aden last week. Mission members--possibly prodded by UN Secretary General U Thant--have said they want to continue their work. They are claiming that a difference exists between the cooperative treatment they received in London and the obstructive attitude of British officials in Aden.

London expects Lord Shackleton, who is minister without portfolio, to stay in Aden about two weeks. He will take up the continuing problem of finding a constitutional formula which will reconcile the Adeni nationalists to inclusion in a federation. He will follow up London's mid-March proposal to give the federal government independence on 1 November 1967 and to station a British naval force in the Gulf of Aden for six months afterward to resist external aggression. British officials believe the federal government may accept the 1 November date if London will keep ground forces in Aden for three to six months and provide a naval force for a somewhat longer period. These terms, if accepted, would allow London to meet its commitment to remove all its forces from Aden by the end of 1968.

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Jordan: The government appears prepared to deal with any disturbances which might arise during today's parliamentary elections. Police in Nablus, scene of serious disturbances last winter, moved early this month to confiscate leaflets--apparently originating with the Egyptians--calling for a boycott of the elections and threatening participants with death. The public generally is reported to be indifferent to the elections, but government moves to control the outcome may add to the frustrations of the Palestinians.

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Syria-Israel: Both countries have added to tensions along the frontier. Israel has positioned troops in two of the three demilitarized zones, and the Syrians, who fired twice this week on Israelis cultivating disputed territory within the zones, are claiming that even more plots should be added to those already in dispute. UN observers trying to damp down the tensions are getting little cooperation from either side and fear that new incidents will occur.

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Greece: Elections have been set for 28 May under the National Radical Union government of premier Kanellopoulos, following his dissolution of Parliament yesterday. Opposition leader Papandreu, who condemned the action in advance, has made it clear that the monarchy is now a prime issue. The prospect of a Papandreu victory in elections could cause the government to take extraconstitutional action.

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